

Kissinger, Rogers Shun Bids to Hill

By Jane Denison

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Despite clamors in Congress to find out what is going on in Vietnam and the Paris peace talks, Secretary of State William P. Rogers and presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger have refused to testify on Capitol Hill this week.

Their refusals, it was learned yesterday, were given to the chairmen of the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs committees shortly after the White House Saturday announced a halt to the heavy bombing of the Hanoi-Haiphong area and the impending resumption of peace negotiations with North Vietnam Jan. 8.

"In view of the imminent renewal of the negotiations, the secretary does not consider it would be appropriate to meet with the committees next week and believes it would be more useful to the committees to defer the meeting for a short while," State Department spokesman Charles W. Bray said.

"The secretary does wish to keep the Congress as fully informed as possible and after Congress reconvenes he will be in touch."

The committees had invited Rogers and Kissinger at the height of the 12-day bombing blitz to appear on Tuesday, the day before the 93d Congress convenes.

Though there was no official White House announcement, informed administration sources said that Kissinger also had declined to appear before the committees. He has regularly declined invitations to testify before Congress, citing "executive privilege."

Sen. J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he was disappointed but not surprised.

"I'm very sorry that they didn't feel free to meet with the committee and talk about the present situation," he said in an interview. "But that's not unusual. They (the administration) haven't been disposed to consult with the Congress for some time."